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prevailed; but he often uses the word loosely in a political sense to mean merely self-government or representative government. And in this latter sense, he has only followed the careless usage of western Americans who have invoked democracy very much as the preacher held his hearers spell-bound by that blessed word Mesopotamia. The concept of democracy in the age of colonization was much narrower than at the present time, for it connoted no more than a government based upon the suffrages of male adults. Measured by contemporary events, the western American whom Professor Turner describes was not a full-fledged democrat, nor even a believer in equality of political opportunity for all adults.

All these essays and addresses bear rereading, and will be heartily welcomed in this serviceable form. Professor Turner has a gift for epigrammatic expression; and many of his incisive statements may be recalled with profit by those who have followed eagerly the trail he has blazed. American historians are prone to forget that "the West, at bottom, is a form of society, rather than an area", and that "not the Constitution, but free land and an abundance of natural resources open to a fit people, made the democratic type of society in America for three centuries."

ALLEN JOHNSON.

Literary Culture in Early New England, 1620-1730. By THOMAS GODDARD WRIGHT, late Instructor in English in Yale University. Edited by his wife. (New Haven: Yale University Press; London: Humphrey Milford. 1920. Pp. 322. \$6.00.)

THE purpose of this book is stated accurately in the introduction: "The pages which follow will not attempt to weigh colonial literature, either to condemn or defend it (although at times they may endeavor to correct impressions which, to the writer, seem erroneous), but rather will attempt to determine that which lies back of any literature, the culture of the people themselves, and to study the relation between their culture and the literature which they produced." The author divides the time treated into three periods—1620-1670, 1670-1700, 1700-1730—and in each period discusses Education, Books and Libraries, Intercourse with England, Other Phases of Culture, and Production of Literature. Under each head he presents a mass of significant material, gathered from original sources or from secondary works of acknowledged trustworthiness, and stated in clear and interesting form. His thesis is that "the general state of culture in the colonies" was "higher than it has usually been rated".

The excellence of the education given at Harvard, during the first period, is proved by the academic honors and church positions given to Harvard graduates in England under the Puritans, and by the fact that several sons of opulent English families were sent to Harvard to be

educated. Dr. Wright shows that even in Plymouth, where culture was less than in Boston, few of the early settlers lacked books: "Of over seventy inventories examined in the first two volumes of the Wills, only a dozen failed to make specific mention of books"; William Brewster's library was valued at £43, nearly a third of his whole estate, and Miles Standish left about fifty books, including Caesar's *Commentaries*, the *Iliad*, and Calvin's *Institutes*, all stimulating to the martial spirit. The pages about private libraries and the library of Harvard College contain less that was not generally known, but new light is thrown upon the actual use of books by many extracts from letters that reveal extensive lending of volumes by John Winthrop and others. Dr. Wright says that the printing press, the powerful instrument of culture, was set up in Cambridge, Massachusetts, a year earlier than in Glasgow, and ten and thirty years earlier than in Rochester and Exeter respectively; the output of the Cambridge press between 1638 and 1670 numbered 157 separate works. As to the quality of the colonial literature of the first period, the author makes some interesting comparisons with contemporary literature by English Puritans, barring Milton and Marvell, and concludes that "if no great literature was produced by the Puritans in New England, it may be not because they were in New England, but because little great literature was produced by the Puritans anywhere."

The same method yields like results in regard to the other two periods, except that the second shows some decline, due largely to less intercourse between the Puritan colonies and England during the Restoration. An appendix contains the inventory of Brewster's library, a list of the books given to the college by John Harvard, selected titles from the Harvard College Library catalogue of 1723, invoices of books shipped to Boston in the last quarter of the seventeenth century (including some "romances"), references to books in the writings of Increase and Cotton Mather, and some other material. An index of names and titles concludes the book.

Every student of American history and literature will be grateful to the author of this valuable work, and will regret that his early death forbade its completion and the undertaking of other studies in the same field. One mildly warning note should perhaps be sounded. In his zeal to prove that the intellectual life of colonial New England was on the same plane with that of Puritan England, Dr. Wright largely ignores the fact that the literary culture of the colonies, in the narrower sense of the word "literary", was much lower than the literary culture of England as a whole in the years which produced Milton, Herrick, Dryden, Addison, and Swift. The book contains, however, the means of correcting its own emphasis on this point. To say, as Dr. Wright does, that the New England Puritan was as literary as the average English Puritan is after all only another way of saying that New England was settled by representatives of the least artistic portion of the

English people; indeed, Dr. Wright's book-lists remind us anew of this truth, for again and again they include the mediocre poems of the Puritan Wither while lacking the great names of Shakespeare, Spenser, and Milton.

WALTER C. BRONSON.

William Shirley, Governor of Massachusetts, 1741-1756: a History.

Vol. I. By GEORGE ARTHUR WOOD, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of American History, Ohio State University. [Columbia University Studies, vol. XCII.] (New York: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1920. Pp. 433. \$4.50.)

ASIDE from preface, bibliography, and index, this volume contains almost exactly four hundred pages. Four of these give Shirley's ancestry. Nearly one hundred are devoted to his experiences under Governor Belcher and the rise of a Whig oligarchy in Britain, much colonial history appearing in explanation of Belcher's fall and the problems which faced his successor.

A second hundred pages recount the difficulties between crown and colony and the reforms attempted by Shirley. Among these the currency problem is emphasized and the governor's position thus stated: "The bad paper currency existent in America was one of the by-products of the shortsighted British colonial system. Under this system the development of colonial resources was hampered, the commercial and military interests of the colonies were often disregarded in the foreign policy of the empire, and the prosperity of the colonies was so reduced that ordinarily they must constantly deny themselves a sound currency that they might employ the fugitive stores of coin which came to them to pay for the English goods which under that system they were forced to buy."

The spirit in which Shirley settled this problem shows one great source of his success in Massachusetts. He was willing to admit defects in the British policy. The governor owed his appointment to the Duke of Newcastle. He came to America to mend his fortunes and to provide for his dependents but he did not necessarily adopt the economic or political views of his patron. Shirley doubted the wisdom of British trade regulations and worked as would Franklin to promote the welfare of Massachusetts and create good-will between crown and colony. Fortunately his wife, of whom little is said, was a good provider and Shirley was free to encourage friendliness between Britain and New England, to further co-operation between council and representatives in Massachusetts, and to unite that colony with others against the French, an important step in American development.

The second half of Professor Wood's volume shows some growth in American harmony with the conquest of Louisbourg and the later plans against Canada. A united Massachusetts enabled Shirley to meet